

Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Delia Thomas and I am a concerned citizen from New Hartford, CT.

I am writing you to ask for your support of Raised Senate Bill 354, a bill that will create a music therapy license in Connecticut. This bill is important because it will allow Connecticut citizens to more easily access music therapy services, and it will protect the public by ensuring that these services are provided by trained and qualified practitioners.

Please note that my support of licensure for music therapy is dependent on some language changes which have been submitted as written testimony by Jennifer Sokira on behalf of the CT Task Force. These changes ensure that the license is reflective of current board certification requirements in music therapy and is not limiting to the practices of Board Certified Music Therapists currently in CT.

My son has severe language disorders – at age 5 he was non-verbal. We were lucky enough to work with Emily Bevelaqua a trained music therapist. She worked closely with my son's speech therapist to help him the overwhelming issues he had in being able to speak. Today he is a happy, talkative 11 yr old boy. We saw tremendous progress when working with Emily. I support this bill to make music therapy more accessible to all children and adults who need it.

For these reasons, I ask that you please vote "yes" on Raised Senate Bill 354! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Delia Thomas
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